

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a molded article that comprises a substrate material and a skin material, comprising:

press molding the substrate material and the skin material by closing a first die that receives the substrate material and a second die that receives the skin material; and

~~simultaneously~~ cutting a peripheral portion of the substrate material at or before completion of the molding step in order to remove an unnecessary or waste portion from the substrate material, but without cutting the skin material such that a cutter blade moves laterally from a retracted position to a projected position prior to the closing of the first and second dies, and moves vertically along a direction of the closing of the first and second dies when the first and second dies close, so as to cooperate with a cutting edge formed on the first die, to thereby cut the substrate material.

Claims 2-6 (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the substrate material comprises a mixture of natural fibrous materials and thermoplastic resin-based fibrous

materials, and wherein the substrate material and the skin material are heated prior to or during the molding step.

8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 7, further comprising drawing a vacuum to pre-form the skin material received within the second die prior to closing the first and second dies.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the substrate material comprises a mixture of natural fibrous materials and thermoplastic resin-based fibrous materials, and wherein the molding step further comprises heating and pressing the substrate material and the skin material.

10. (Cancelled)

Claims 11-20. (Cancelled).

Please add new claim 21 as follows:

21. (New) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the molding step further comprises folding an excess portion of the skin material along a side edge of the substrate material and molding the skin material to the side edge of the substrate material after the side edge of the substrate material was cut but before completion of the molding step.